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When it is added that the Carnegie Institution has a fully organized department of historical research, under charge of an eminent scholar and professor of history, Dr. J. F. Jameson, and is conducting its own distinct labors in concert with the Library of Congress, thus avoiding expenditure in the same field, the inexpediency of establishing a new and costly Government Bureau, to enter upon historical work already amply provided for, becomes fully apparent.

MINUTE ON THE DEATH OF AINSWORTH RAND
SPOFFORD, LL.D.

By W. B. BRYAN,

November 10, 1908.

It is difficult to form an estimate of the influence in the active work of our Society of the life and labors of such a man as Dr. Ainsworth R. Spofford. A founder of the Society, chosen at the first election of officers one of the vice-presidents, a position which he held up to the time of his death, covering a period of more than fourteen years, he was in a real sense a part of its life. To it he gave freely of that ripened judgment, that wide experience of men and of books and that keen perception of the value of things which underlay a reputation that was national in its scope.

His conception of the trust confided in him by the Society year after year, was not, that it was merely one of many such honors that came to him, but as one involving an obligation of duty. How thoroughly he acted upon this conception of an office-bearer, the records of the Society furnish abundant evidence. He was constant in attendance at the meetings of the board of managers and at the meetings of the Society. His name follows the titles of a number of papers that were specially prepared for presentation to the Society and his voice was frequently heard in the discussions, pouring forth from his richly stored mind illuminating and suggestive thoughts.

Long after the period in life when it is commonly thought,

that a man may claim to be released from the exactions upon his time and strength which interests outside of the usual vocation impose, Dr. Spofford showed no abatement of that remarkable physical and mental vitality which gave such emphasis to his career.

With it all was a spirit of enthusiasm which made what he did the more effective. There was no task, however arduous, that he shrank from undertaking if it came to him as a duty, and the energy and fidelity which he displayed in the service of the Society were a source of inspiration to his associates and a substantial benefit to the organization. In spite of his more than four score years, Dr. Spofford's range of interest did not become contracted and he accorded new ideas and new methods a heartiness of reception, which usually marks only that period when the ardor of youth is dominant.

He gladly gave his time to assist those engaged in historical research and placed at their disposal the ready reference volume of that wonderful memory which was especially full on the source materials of American history.

As an officer of this Society, as a capable and earnest worker, as a source of inspiration and encouragement to others, Dr. Spofford gave a service to the Society, which has contributed in a large measure, to whatever success it has attained. It is, therefore, with a feeling of real loss, that his associates in the Columbia Historical Society place on record this statement of Dr. Spofford's service in this one department of the activities of a busy, a useful and a worthy life.

A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

By CHARLES H. BUTLER.

(Read before the Society, January 12, 1909.)

Looking at the last edition of "Who's Who in America" we find the following biographical item.

"SPOFFORD, AINSWORTH RAND, chief asst. librarian of Congress; Gilmanton, N. H., Sept. 12, 1825; Son of Rev. L. A. and Grata (Rand) S.; classical education from private tutors